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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/517,727	12/10/2004	George Thompson	P9450-0305	6044

7590 11/20/2008
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EXAMINER

THOMPSON, GREGORY D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2835

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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11/20/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/517,727	THOMPSON, GEORGE	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Gregory D. Thompson	2835	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10/08/08 (RCE).
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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1. Below are just a few examples of 112 problems with the RCE filed on 10/8/08?

All claims should be carefully review and corrected.

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1-6 and 11-12,15-18 are confusing for claims 1 and 11 now recite "a meter base and meter" and the dependent claims (2,12 and etc.) recite "a meter base assembly, a meter base and a meter"; respectively.

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-6, 8-13,15-18 and 20-22 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Langdon et al (4,977,482).

Langdon teaches a power assembly system in Figs. 5-9, comprising: a collar unit 16 with a sleeve 96; and an internal power unit 114/116 (AC to DC converter) which is located entirely within the collar unit 16, wherein the internal power unit 114/116 is coupled (broad term) to the collar unit 16. A power assembly couple, comprising: the power assembly system (the collar unit 16 and power unit 114/116) and a meter base assembly composed of a meter 12 and meter base (broad term) having contacts 28, 30,

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wherein the meter base assembly is coupled (broad term) to the power assembly system to form the power assembly couple. The meter base assembly is located outdoors. The meter base assembly measures metered electricity. The collar unit 16 protects the internal power unit 114/116 from environmental conditions (broad term). The couple further comprises an external electronic component (broad term) the optical network interface, col.7, lines 28-36 at the end of the male plug 110 via element (wire) 108 in Fig. 8. Regarding claims 5 and 17, col. 1, lines 55-57 refer to residential location or house sites. The broad method limitations would be fully met by the structure discussed above.

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1,7,11 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Langdon (4,977,482).

Langdon teaches the power assembly as discussed above. Langdon does not teach that the collar unit 16 is ejection molded. However, it is considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the well-known process of ejection molding the unit 16 out of the well-known material of plastic for example to provide excellent protection from environmental conditions to prolong the life of 16.

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8. Claims 11-12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Langdon et al (4,977,482).

Langdon teaches the broad method limitations from the structure discussed above. Langdon does not teach that the component (optical network interface) has a circuit board. However, it is considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a well-known circuit board with components thereon in the interface to provide the desired mounting of the components and provide the electrical connection between the components of the interface to provide the desired electrical action.

9. Applicant's arguments filed 10/8/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The power unit 114 which is composed of body 116 and the voltage converting circuit (col. 7, lines 37 through col. 8, lines 1-7 (Figs. 8-9) and claim 14) is located entirely within the collar unit 16 as seen in Fig. 8 when unit 114 with the body 116 is insert into 96. The circuit in Fig. 9 that is in unit/body (114/116) is within/self-contained the collar unit/adaptor 16 and does convert AC to DC (claim 14).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory D. Thompson whose telephone number is (571) 272-2045. The examiner can normally be reached on varying schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jayprakash Gandhi can be reached on (571) 272- 3740. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Gregory D Thompson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2835

Gregory D Thompson
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2835